producer as well as upon the collection agency. It involved the former waiting upon petty Government servants first to allow of the crop being inspected and estimated before it could be gathered, then to have every consignment weighed and passes taken when the nuts were sold or exported, then again to get those passes examined and verified at sayerkattes on the road or at the places of destination of consignments. The grower was liable to be called upon to account for the quantity as per estimate of crop and was suspected of smuggling what he could not thus account for. The vexation and loss thereby entailed were in proportion to the trouble and loss of time experienced on these occasions, which in the case of small growers were very great and in all cases were such that the Representative from Chitaldroog would advocate the abolition of halat altogether in the present prosperous condition of the finances of the State, while the members from Tumkur would prefer, if necessary, the halat being distributed over the cultivated area and recovered rateably by an additional acreage assessment. The Representative from Chikmagalur further pointed out that the *halat* system had the effect of placing the poor cultivator under the Saukar, particularly so in Koppa Taluk where the land assessment he stated was higher than in the neighbouring Taluk of Mudgere.

Dewan's reply.—Government are fully alive to the evils of the *halat* system, and are satisfied that relief of some kind is called for in the case of supari gardens in the Malnad. It is however a question which requires careful consideration as the revenue involved is large. The Dewan invited attention of the representatives to what he had stated on this subject in his Address and hoped that though no definite reply could be given at present, the question would be satisfactorily solved at an early date. The Government could not think of adding to the land tax in the Malnad so as to compensate for abolition of sayer. If sayer is at all to be abolished, it can only be by a gradual reduction of the rate of duty spread over a series of years so that the loss of revenue would be inappreciable.

Subject No. 7.

Railway from Kadur to Mangalore *viâ* Chikmagalur.

Summary of discussion.—A Railway from Kadur to Mangalore *viâ* Chikmagalur is worthy of consideration. All the traffic which now passes through the Bhund Ghat yields to Toll-Gate contractor an income sufficient to enable him to secure a profit and pay to Government on an average Rs. 3,400 per annum. In addition to all this traffic, what now passes through the Agumbe Ghat will also be diverted into this line. The country will be opened out and become more accessible to settlers. More than 50,000 acres of land fit for rice or coffee will be taken up for cultivation.

Dewan's reply.—It is a matter of considerable engineering difficulty to connect Chikmagalur with Kadur by Railway, but the Government hope to be able ere long to effect this. Further extension to the frontier of South Canara must, from the nature of the country and the enormous outlay that will be required, be regarded as practically impossible for many years to come. Again what is the use of such an extension unless the Madras Government undertook to construct the portion of line from the frontier to Mangalore? The people of Mangalore have, it is true, been pressing the subject on the favorable consideration of the Madras Government, but, we have been unable to ascertain that there is any prospect of the work being undertaken on the Madras side. The Chikmagalur-Mangalore Railway is not a project which under the circumstances can at present be considered.

Subject No. 8.

Selection of a Representative Member as a non-official Member of H. H.'s Council.

Summary of discussion.—For a better representation of the public interests in the Government, the Representative Assembly should be allowed to elect one of themselves as a non-official Member of the Council of His Highness the Maharaja.

Dewan's reply.—For an executive Council, it is inexpedient to have any one as a member who is not a responsible servant of the Government. In the exercise of its executive functions, Government can only hear what Representatives who may be deputed for the purpose may wish to represent in any particular case; but such Representatives cannot be incorporated into the Council. Non-official members will doubtless be very useful in a Legislative Council; but the Legislative work which now remains to be done is so little, and what laws we pass are so much on the lines of British Indian Legislation with such modifications only as are called for by local circumstances that it may be somewhat ostentatious to constitute a regular Legislative Council for Mysore. In connection with important questions of general interest or proposed Regulations which may be under consideration, the Government would always be glad to have the opinions of the Assembly through any members whom it may choose to depute for the purpose of representing them to the Government. Except in this way or by means of a standing Committee appointed by the Assembly to remain always at the Head-Quarters, Bangalore or Mysore, it would be impossible for the Assembly to have its views placed before the Government from time to time throughout the year. But the discussions at this Annual Meeting of the Assembly are always borne in mind by the Government in the disposal of important questions when they come up. Under such circumstances, the proposal now made for a non-official Member of Council